

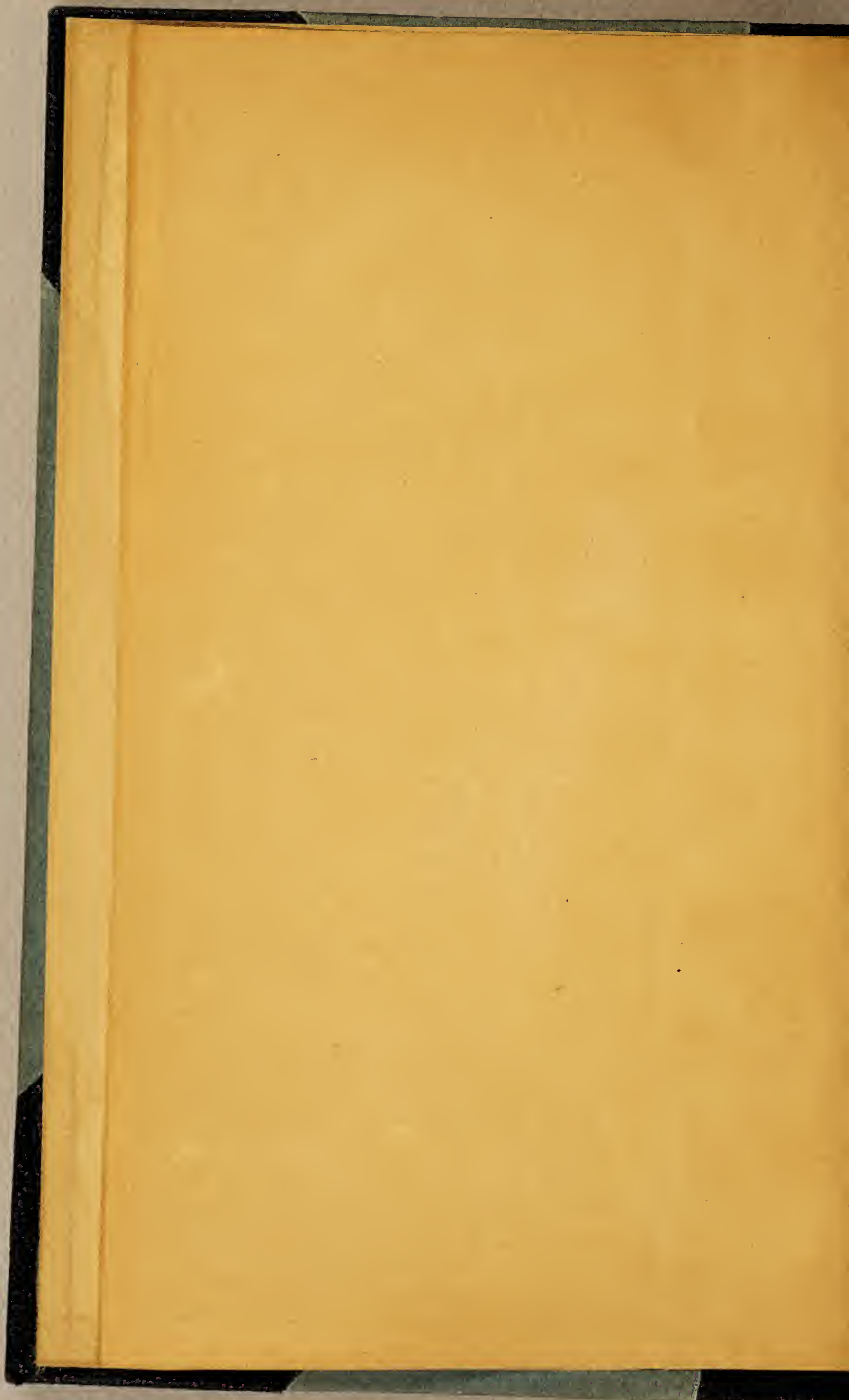
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L E T T E R

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

The Lord Mayor, Aldermen,

Common Council, and Citizens,

O F

L O N D O N,

C O N C E R N I N G

The Peace now in Agitation between *Great
Britain and France.*

Justum et tenacem propositi virum,
Non Civium ardor, prava jubentium,
Mente quatit solida, &c. HOR.

L O N D O N:

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L E T T E R

T O T H E

L O R D M A Y O R , & c .

G E N T L E M E N ,

I HAVE always had the highest Regard for your Sentiments in Matters which concern the Public ; for as Trade is the Support of *Great Britain*, and as it is by that we are enabled, not only to defend ourselves from the ambitious Views of *France*, but likewise to protect our Neighbours from the Encroachments of that restless Nation ; so in you that Trade centers. By you, chiefly, the Government is supported, in all Cases where considerable Sums of Money are necessary ; and as it is from you the Govern-

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ment derives its chief Support, so your Interest obliges you to support a Government which intends nothing but the Public Welfare.

My Intention by this Letter, is, to lay before you my Sentiments honestly, and without Disguise; and as I have neither Post nor Pension, nor any Thing in View but the Welfare of my Country, I shall be pleased to be corrected, in any thing where you think I do not reason justly.

When Mr. *Pitt* came into Power, the Nation was in a kind of Lethargy. For near forty Years before, one would think his Predecessors, in the Administration, had nothing else in View, but to get a Majority in a certain House; and if that was obtained, there seemed to be an Indifferency, whether we or *France* had a Superiority in the *East* or *West Indies*, in *America*, or any where else. Mr. *Pitt* roused us from that
Lethargy,

Lethargy, and shewed the World what *Great Britain* could do, when its Strength was properly exerted ; and every impartial Man must be sensible, that his Country owes him great Obligations, for what was done in the *East* and *West Indies*, and in *North America*, during his Administration : but, at the same Time, he involved his Country in much greater Connections on the Continent than ever any Minister did before him ; which cost us such immense Sums as must have ruined his Country, had there been a Continuance of that Expence. His Friends said he was obliged to go into these Connections against his Will, in order to have it in his Power to protect our valuable Concerns where our Trade lay ; and I own I believed it was so, from the many Professions he made against our being concerned in a War on the Continent, till he made that extraordinary Speech in the House of Commons, after the Death of the late King, wherein he said, we had conquered *America*,

Guardaloupe, &c. in Germany ——. A Speech, which I should not have thought him capable of making, had not Gentlemen of Honour told me they heard him pronounce it.

Is there any Man in *Britain*, the least acquainted with *France*, who does not know, that, besides the Troops they sent to *Germany*, they had two hundred thousand more at Home? and that had it not been for the Superiority of our Fleets, the only Bulwark of *Britain*, they not only could have supported their Settlements every where, but have endangered *Great Britain* itself, nay, inflaved it? The present Ministry found their Country under an intolerable Burden, by Connections with *Germany*; and every Man, who considered Things coolly, and with Judgment, saw, that, without withdrawing ourselves from these Connections, it was impossible for this Nation to continue to carry on the War at Sea with Spirit, where alone
we

we could serve our Country effectually, the Expence of both being beyond our Strength. Let us then consider what the present Ministry has done in this Situation. They had Resolution to refuse to renew the Treaty with the King of *Prussia*, which answered no good End as to *Great Britain*, and was made only to answer *German Views*; and was so far against our real Interest, that, instead of raising a Balance of Power against the House of *Bourbon*, which was the View King *William* steadily pursued, that Balance was weakened, by creating two great Powers in *Germany* instead of one, by which *France* had an Opportunity of playing the one against the other.

The refusing to renew this Treaty, though it was most rational, and saved the Nation six hundred and seventy thousand Pounds a-year, yet was not popular, as it was an Opposition to Mr. *Pitt's* Measures, who, by his Successes at Sea, had gained an universal Popularity; but as it was evidently for the Interest of
Great

Great Britain, so there is nothing that shews so much a noble and great Mind in a Minister of State, as to pursue Measures for the good of his Country, when he knows these Measures are not approved of by the unthinking Multitude, who see not into the Bottom of Things.

The present Ministry, being sensible that the Continuation of a War in *Germany*, must soon ruin this Country, by exporting our Cash, so as to render us incapable of either protecting our Trade, or carrying on our Manufactories, very wisely judged it to be for the public Interest to make Peace: So that the only Question is, whether the Terms offered by *France*, are worthy of our Acceptance?

What they are, the Public does not know with any Certainty; but it is evident, that the Terms mentioned in the public Papers are much better than those agreed to by Mr. *Pitt*; and if so, is it reasonable to rail
at

at the present Minister, and extol Mr. *Pitt*, who agreed to worse Terms? Mr. *Pitt* had agreed, that the *French* should have Liberty to fish in the *North American* Seas; that Liberty is restricted now by the Preliminaries to narrower Bounds: Mr. *Pitt* had agreed to deliver up our Conquests in the *West-Indies*, excepting some of the Neutral Islands; the present Preliminaries does no more. Mr. *Pitt* had made no Provision against the Encroachments of *France* from *Louisiana*; the Preliminaries now, give us all the Country on the East of the River *Mississippi*, by which, as we are Masters of *Canada*, all *North America* is ours, and all our Settlements there secured against any Danger, and the Inhabitants as much quieted in their Possessions as they are in *England*, as it was the *French* who stirred up the *Indians* against us: And, as the Exports of our Manufactories to that Part of the World amounts at present, as appears by the Custom-House Books, to between two and three Millions yearly; and as, in every fourteen

fourteen Years, the Inhabitants are computed to double in that Part of the World, in peaceable Times ; the Export, fourteen Years hence, must be between four and five Millions, and in twenty-eight Years to about nine Millions, and so be always on the Increase. Is not this a noble Prospect for Posterity? And as the Value of the Land in *Great Britain* depends on our Trade and Manufactories, what infinite Advantages may not *Great-Britain* expect from this valuable Acquisition ?

By these Preliminaries our Trade is secured in the Bay of *Honduras*, and on the *Musqueto* Shore ; by which, besides the immediate Advantages arising from that Trade, we have a Door opened to supply the *Spanish* Settlements with our Manufactories. This was no way settled by Mr. *Pitt* ; nor indeed could it well be, as we had then no War with *Spain*. As I converse with many worthy Citizens, I shall take Notice of some Objections
I have

I have heard amongst them to the Preliminaries put in the Papers.

The chief Objection is, against the Liberty of fishing granted to *France*, as this is their chief Nursery for Sailors; and the second is, giving them back their Sugar Islands, which yield to them about Two Millions yearly, and maintain several thousand Sailors; and, as we are now in Possession of these Things, and as our Power at Sea puts it out of the Power of *France* and *Spain* to take them from us, it seems to be our Interest to restore none of them to *France*, our mortal Enemy.

There is no Man in *Britain* a more sanguine Enemy to *France* than I am; nor is there any Body more convinced of the Advantages that would arise to my Country, by depriving *France* of any Share of the Fishery, and the Sugar Islands: And I am likewise sensible of our great Superiority at Sea, which must

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greatly

greatly increase, by depriving *France* of their chief Nursery of Sailors, and throwing that into our Scale. But, alas! *France* knows how to balance Accounts with us; they know we are now at upwards of six Millions Expence yearly, by opposing them in *Germany*; they know we are no Match for them on the Continent; they can furnish three Times the Number of Troops we can there, and maintain them for half the Expence: They know, that, if we continue that Spirit of *Don Quixotism*, by dividing our Wealth amongst *German* Princes, to answer no good End to ourselves, it must soon end in our Destruction; and, therefore, we have no Choice, but either to abandon the Defence of *German* Dominions, or continue the War on the Continent, at the enormous Expence we do at present; and even by doing so, we are no Match for *France*, if they were in earnest to take *H——r*. But that is neither their Interest nor Intention: If they took it, that would put an End to the War there, and our Expence

pence on the Continent ; and they are too wise not to see, that it answers their Purpose much better, to put us to the Expence of six or seven Millions yearly, by supporting the War there, than to put the Revenues of *H——r* in their Pockets, which is not a tenth of the Sum. This would be, in the mercantile Style, to trade at Nine Hundred *per Cent.* Loss, and would be to be Penny wise and Pound Fool. *France* speaks this Language to us, You may keep the Sugar Islands, and deprive us of the Fishery, by which we shall lose three Millions yearly ; but, to balance this, we will oblige you to continue the War in *Germany*, which shall cost you more than double that Sum : So that our Ministry are brought to this sad Choice, either to abandon *Germany*, after their Predecessors have thrown away about thirty Millions to defend it, or to give up to *France* what we have done.

On considering Things attentively, you must be sensible, that whatever Concessions we are obliged to make to *France*, is to be charged to our Connections in *Germany*: These Connections we were brought into by the last Administration, and not by the present; and is it reasonable to be angry at those who are endeavouring to relieve the Nation from those Connections, which must ruin us, if they were to continue; as they would oblige us to export a Quantity of Cash yearly, exceeding the whole Produce of our Trade, and this on Account of Concerns in which we are not interested?

We have been at War with *France* about thirty-five Years, during this last Century, and probably may be as long at War with them during the next Century, as they are our natural Enemies; and, if we were to continue in that Phrensy we have been under during this War, and maintain it with them, on the Continent, at the same Expences the present
 War

War has cost us, for some Years past, it will cost us above two Hundred Millions Sterling, which is four Hundred Years Purchase of the Revenues of his Majesties dominions in *Germany*. I hope, for hereafter, we shall not concern ourselves in *German Quarrels*, as we have done now; and if *France*, in a future War, shall invade *H—r*, we shall let them take it; and in place of it, take Possession of all that *France* possesses any where but on the Continent of *Europe*, by which they will lose a Million for every hundred Thousand they can get by *H—r*, and we can indemnify his Majesty out of that, for the Loss of the Revenues of *H—r*, during the Time *France* possesses it.

This is the only Method to carry on a War with *France* to Advantage (supposing his Majesty to keep his *German Dominions* as his Property) and would prevent their going to War with us, as they know our Superiority at Sea secures the Dominions of
Great

Great Britain ; and this will prevent our being tributary to *German* Princes for its Defence, as we have been for many Years by-past.

There is likewise another Method to free us from any Concern in *German* Quarrels, if his Majesty chuses it, *viz.* to give his Dominions there to a younger Branch of the Royal Family ; and I think it can be demonstrated from the Principles of the Feudal Law, the Law by which the Fiefs in *Germany* are regulated, and by the Practice in *Germany*, that this may be done, notwithstanding the Pains taken, by some *Germans* about his Majesty, to persuade People, who are ignorant of that Law, that it cannot. And it is plain, that this would be for the Interest of *H—r*, as well as ours, by freeing them from *French* Invasions, when *France* is at War with *Great Britain*.

It is really shameful to see the Mixture of Ignorance and Spleen that appears in some of the public Papers, not only
 against

against the Ministry, but against the Royal Family. I shall only here take Notice of two Instances, from amongst many.

In a Paper called the *North Briton*, a few Days ago, the Author declares, he would have all of the Name of *Stuart* destroyed, without considering that the Royal Family derive their Right to the Crown from that Family, and without reflecting that there are many noble Families of that Name, a Multitude of Gentlemen, and many Thousands of other People, who are as good Subjects as his Majesty has. All these, he thinks, ought to be put to Death, to please a dirty Writer from a Garret; for it is evident, from many of his Papers, that he has not the Manners or Education of a Gentleman.

This Author is likewise so stupidly ignorant, as to publish it as a Crime, in a Club of Gentlemen, that they call themselves *Britons*: He has never, it seems, read the
Articles

Articles of Union between *England* and *Scotland*, by which these Names are swallowed up in the Name of *Great Britain*; and if that was not the Case, must he not see, that the Name of *Briton* is the most honourable that those in *South Britain* can take? It was conquered by the *Romans*, then by the *Anglo Saxons*, and afterwards by the *Normans*; and is it not more honourable to be called by the Name given to the antient Inhabitants by the *Greek* and *Roman* Authors, a Thousand Years before the *Anglo Saxons* came here, and likewise by our own *Historians*, long before that Time, than by the Name of any of three conquering Nations, who had no Right to possess the Country, but by superior Force?

The Name of *Briton*, instead of *English* and *Scots*, is now established by Law, in order to sopite all Heart-burning and Animosity between the two Nations, which *France* had taken Care to excite for a Thousand
 Years.

Years. But this Scribbler wants to revive that Rancour, which a War for many Hundred Years had occasioned between the *English* and the *Scots*, and by which none but *France* profited. *North Britain* has furnished, during this War, between seventy and eighty Thousand Men, against the common Enemy to our Religion and Liberties. And the Intention of this Paper seems to be to put an End to that Harmony which subsists between the two Nations ; and I should believe the Author was a Hireling to *France*, was it not that the *French* are too wise to give their Money to so bad a Writer.

To conclude, I have not the Honour to be acquainted with the Noble Lord, reckoned now the Prime Minister ; but I hope, from the Goodness of his Character in Private Life, and his extraordinary Abilities, that he will take Care of the Honour and Interest of his Country ; though I see clearly that our Connections with *Germany*, which was a Mill-stone hung

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about

about our Necks, before he came into Power, must be a great Draw-back on his good Intentions; which, I believe, are to do every Thing for the Public Welfare: And as he has declared himself an Enemy to Corruption, so I hope he will make such a Peace as will be for our Interest; and that he will take Care that we shall not be ruined in Time, coming by Affairs on the Continent, in which we have no Concern, which has been our Situation for many Years past. But let his Conduct in making the Peace, be your Rule of Judging, and not Clamour founded on Prejudices.

As to *Newfoundland* having been taken by the *French*, it must have given Uneasiness to every Well-wisher to his Country; but if the Ministry were to be blamed, so was Mr. *Pitt*: There were no more Ships stationed there in his Time than now; and it is strange that the *French* did not take it some Years ago. But, in my Opinion, the Fault lay in the
Board

Board of Admiralty, before Lord *Halifax* was at the Head of that Board ; and it must give universal Satisfaction that it is now again in our Possession.

As to *Portugal*, about which you seem so much concerned, supposing that *Spain* should over-run it, it can't be their Interest to keep it. By the Superiority of our Fleet they can have no Benefit from the *Brazils*, and other *Portuguese* Settlements ; and we have it now in our Power to seize on all the valuable Parts of the *Spanish West Indies* ; and the King of *Portugal*, by giving him Possession of these, may reap more Benefit from them than by the Revenue of *Portugal*, as he is under our Protection, and *Spain* must suffer a Loss much greater, till it is restored.

As to malicious Stories, propagated industriously against Lord *B—e*, as if he was not a sincere Friend to the present Royal Family ; his Mother was Sister to the late Duke of

Argyle, his Father died when he was very young, and he was educated under the Inspection of the *Argyle* Family; a Family most remarkable for their Attachment to the Revolution, and the present Royal Family. So that Insinuation can make no Impression, except on those who know nothing of him, or the Noble Family he represents. It is the Fate of good Ministers, who are Enemies to Corruption, to be attacked by the corrupt and selfish Part of Mankind; as is evident from that great upright Minister the Duke of *Sully*, in *France*, in *Henry* the Fourth's Reign, the Malice of whose Enemies confirmed him in the good Opinion of his Master.

Under the present Administration, *Martini-co* and the *Havannah* have been taken, which has occasioned a visible Dejection, instead of Chearfulness, on the Countenances of a Set of People who call themselves Patriots, and, at the same Time, Friends to a late Minister.

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Is this a Mark of Love to their Country, or of blind personal Subserviency ?

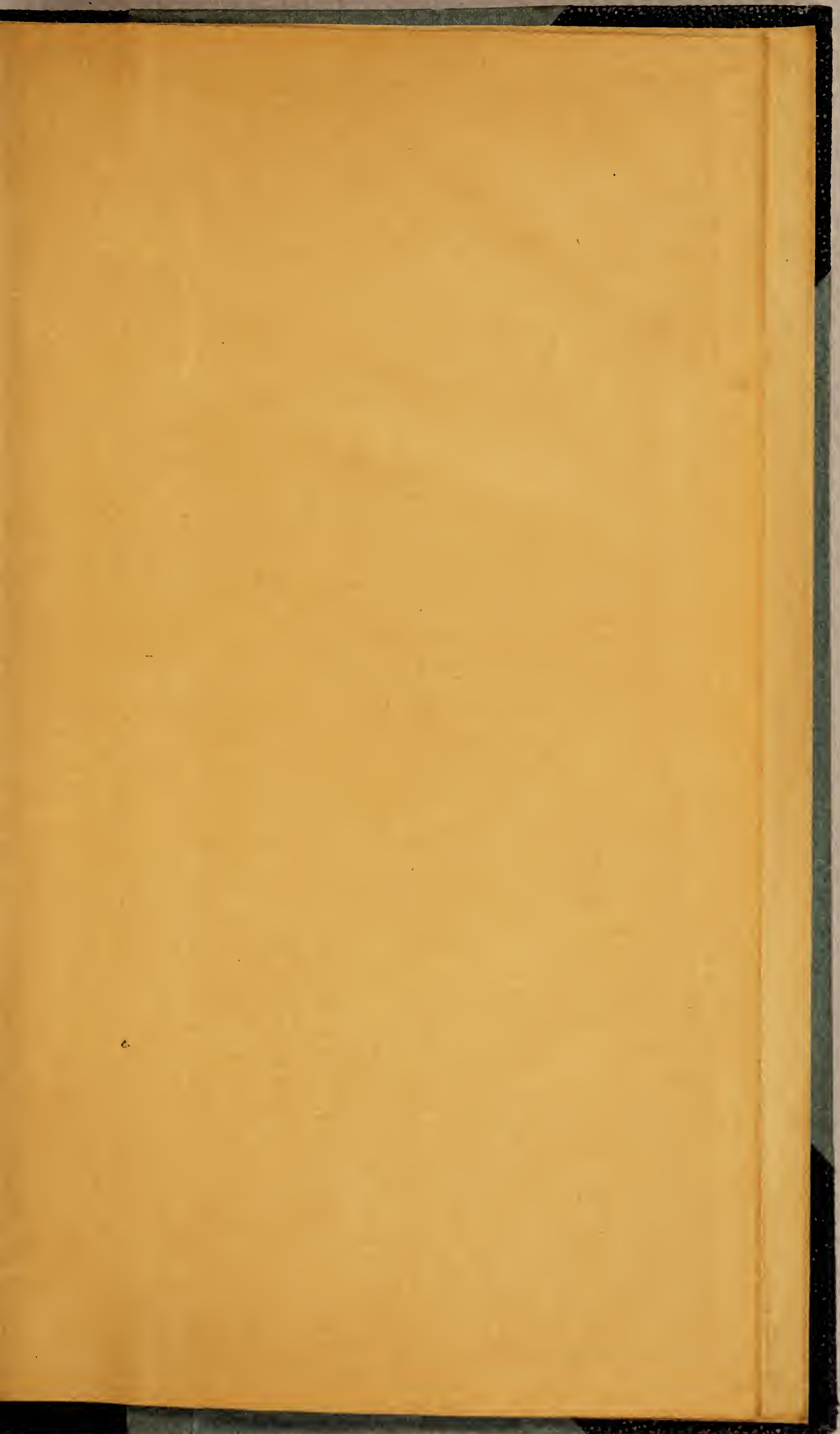
It cannot be our Interest to drive the *Spaniards* from their large Possessions in the *West-Indies* ; but I hope, from the extraordinary Penetration and Goodness of Heart, that the Earl of *B—e* is said to possess, by those who have the Honour of his Acquaintance, that he will be able, by means of this last Event, to detach *Spain* from *France*, and settle advantageous Terms with *Spain* for our Commercial Interests, on a sure, lasting, and advantageous Footing.

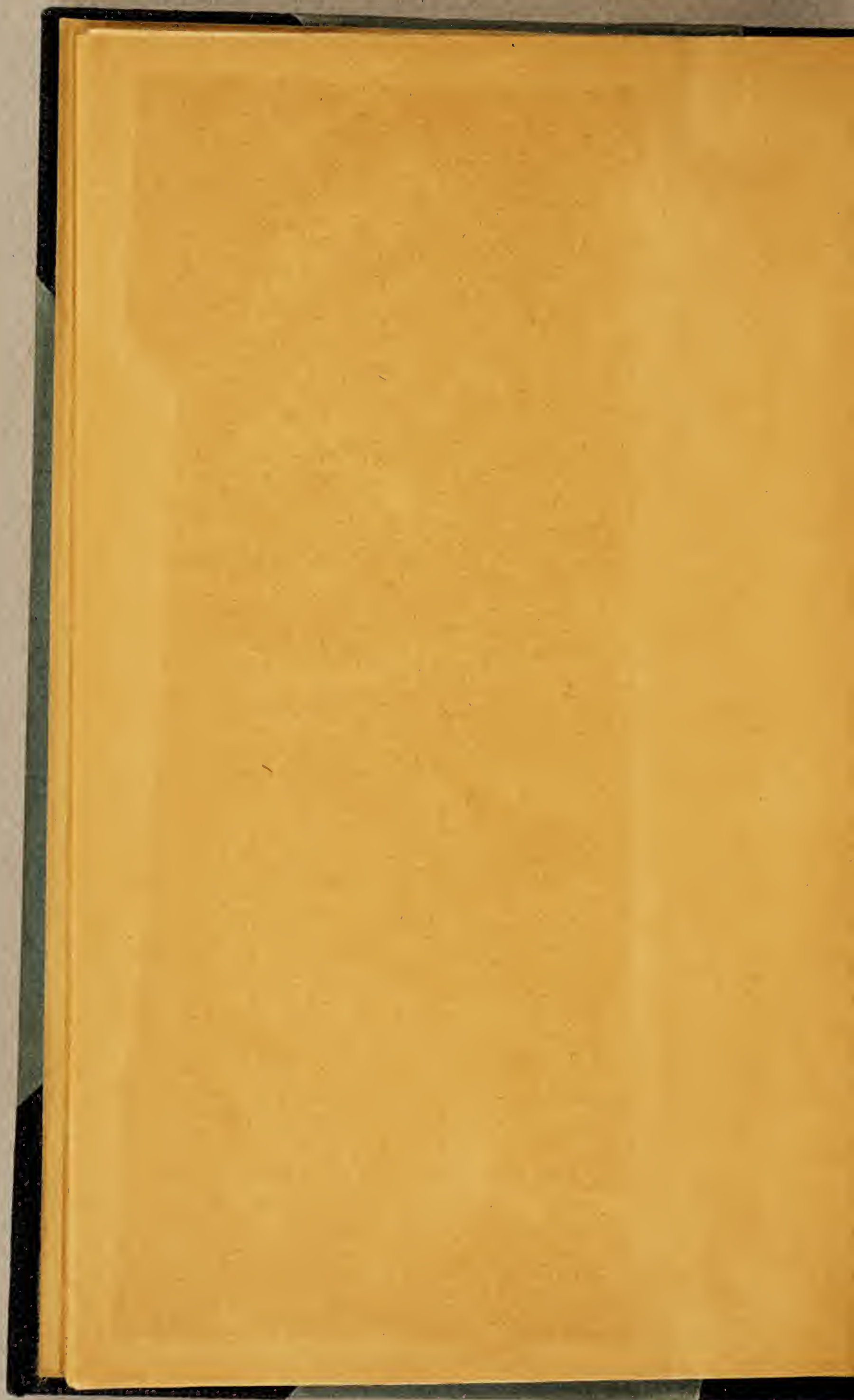
There never was a Stroke struck so much for the Glory and Interest of *Great Britain*, as the taking of the *Havannah*, the Key of the *Spanish West Indies* ; and I now long much to see what the Authors of the *Monitor*, and *North Briton*, will invent, as a new Subject of Abuse against the Minister, after these two great Events, the taking of that Place,
and

and the retaking of *Newfoundland*. And I will take it upon me to affirm, that if he can draw his Country from our present destructive Connections in *Germany*, and make a safe and honourable Peace, every sensible disinterested Person must look on his being Minister as the greatest public Blessing that has happened to this Country, since the Accession of the Royal Family to the Crown; and, in particular, if he draws the Nation from their Connections on the Continent, he will disappoint the Views of the *Jacobites*, whose Hopes are only founded on this, that, by lavishing our Blood and Treasure on the Continent, his Majesty might lose the Heart and Esteem of his *British* Subjects.

I am, &c.

BRITANNICUS.





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